

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 104

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to commend Mayor William “Bill” Rawls Jr. for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as the first African-American mayor of Brownsville.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mayor William “Bill” Rawls Jr., who was sworn in as Brownsville’s first African-American mayor on July 8, 2014, is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Haywood County, Mayor Rawls is the son of the late W.D. Rawls Sr. and Audrey Louis Rawls; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Rawls graduated from Haywood High School in 1984 and from Morehouse College in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Banking and Finance; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as mayor of Brownsville, Mayor Bill Rawls has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, outside his role as mayor, he heads a variety of community boards, including Tennessee Opportunity Programs and Living for Christ Emergency Homeless Shelter, and has served on several more boards, including Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Health Information Technology Advisory Board, Memphis in May Cultural Program Committee, and South West Community Service Agency; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Rawls’s remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, outside of his public service, Mayor Rawls served in the United States Army Reserves for eight years, worked for Golden Circle Life Insurance Company for twelve years, and continues to assist with the management of Rawls Funeral Home, a third generation family owned business; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bill Rawls is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Bill Rawls is fortunate to be the proud father of two sons, Terry and Evan Rawls; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Rawls is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Mayor William Rawls Jr. for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as Mayor of Brownsville and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.